



U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

OFFICE OF EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

Postal Square Building, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20212-0001 • 202-691-5200 • www.bls.gov

Business Employment Dynamics

What data does the Business Employment Dynamics (BED) Program produce?

The Business Employment Dynamics program (BED) is generated from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). BED publishes gross job gains from opening and expanding businesses, and gross job losses from closing and contracting businesses. BED also publishes the number of establishments opening, expanding, contracting or closing. Data are available as either levels or rate (as a percent of total employment or establishments, respectively).

How can I use Business Employment Dynamics (BED) data?

- The Federal Reserve Board often uses BED data to help measure job creation and job destruction in the economy.
- State Labor Market Information (LMI) bureaus use BED data to study the business cycle for comparison to the business cycle in the country as a whole.
- Local and national media use the count of establishment's gains and losses to help understand and complement data on employment.
- The Small Business Administration uses BED data (by size classification of firm) to measure the contribution to employment of small businesses.

What can I learn from BED data?

- A large volume of gross job gains and gross job losses underlie even a relatively small change in net employment. This combination of businesses creating jobs and destroying jobs is sometimes called “creative destruction.”
- Both gross job gains and gross job losses were larger during the expansion of the late 1990s than either the recession of 2001 or the subsequent recovery.
- On average (since the beginning of the BED series), firms with 1 to 499 employees have created 64 percent of new jobs.

When are the data available for me to use?

Data are published in a news release, approximately 8 months after the reference quarter.

Where can I find the information?

All BED data are available for download from the website, www.bls.gov/bdm/ or contact BED by email at BDMinfo@bls.gov or by telephone at (202) 691-6467. In addition, an automated email can be sent to you when data are made available via this website, <http://www.bls.gov/bls/list.htm>. Please check the box next to “Quarterly Data on Business Employment Dynamics”.

You can also find information from your State LMI office from the links via this website <http://www.bls.gov/bls/ofolist.htm>

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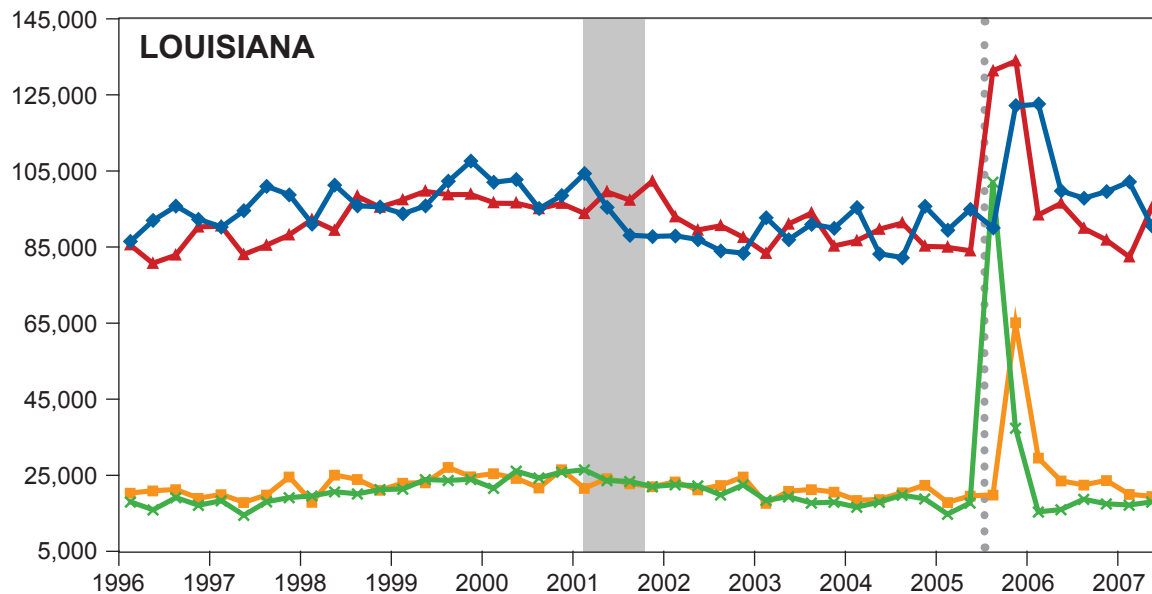
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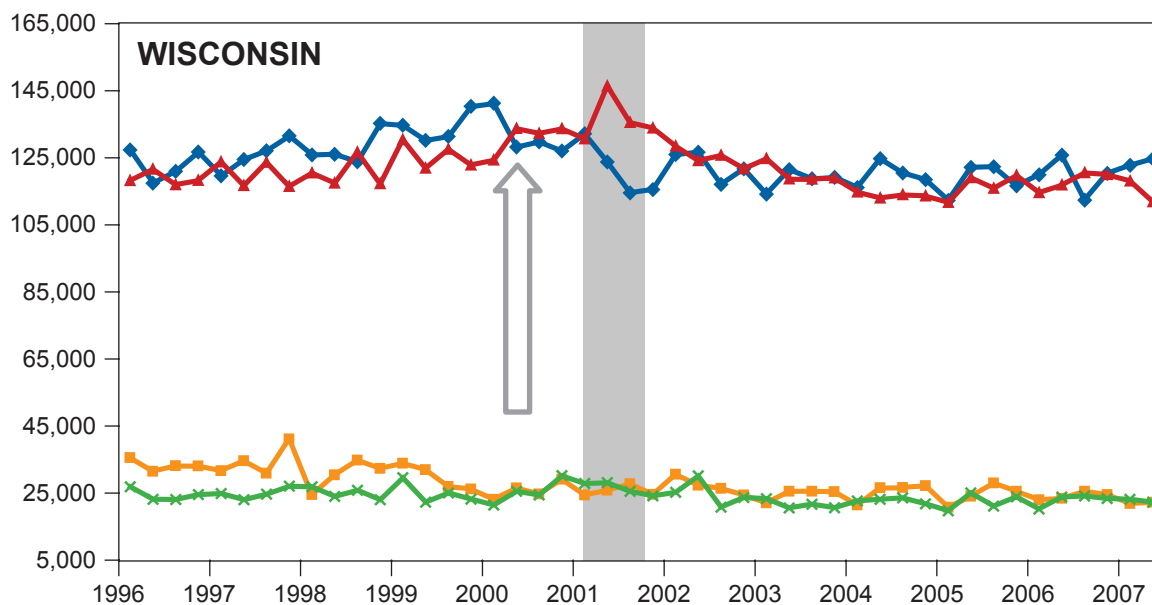


Business Employment Dynamics

Components of private sector gross job gains and gross job losses, seasonally adjusted, March 1996 – June 2007



Hurricane Katrina made landfall in Louisiana on August 29, 2005.



In Wisconsin contractions exceeded expansions 1 year prior to the recession.

—◆— Expansions —■— Openings —▲— Contractions —×— Closings

NOTE: Shaded area represents recession period March – November 2001; dotted gray line represents Hurricane Katrina landfall in Louisiana, August 29, 2005.